



STATE OF WASHINGTON
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

PO Box 47721 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7721 • (360) 407-6200 • FAX (360) 407-6215

November 1, 2005

Ms. Lisa Leriwick, NACD Awards
National Association of Conservation Districts
509 Capitol Court NE
Washington, D.C. 20002

RE: Diversity Award

Dear Ms. Leriwick:

I am submitting the nomination for the Washington State Conservation Commission for the NACD Conservation Partnerships Diversity Award. I have enclosed the nomination form and the nomination document.

Thank you for the opportunity to highlight our efforts in conservation.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Clark
Executive Director

Enclosure



National Association of Conservation Districts

2005 Partnership Diversity Awards NOMINATION FORM

I nominate the following:

_____ Conservation District _____ RC&D Council/Project X State Conservation Agency

Name: Washington State Conservation Commission
Nominated district, RC&D, or state conservation agency

Address: PO Box 47721
Street or PO Box
Olympia WA 98504-7721
City State Zip Code

Email: macl461@ecy.wa.gov Phone: 360.407.6201

Please fill out your information below:

Name: Mark Clark
First Last

Nominating Organization: WA State Conservation Commission

Email: macl461@ecy.wa.gov Phone: 360.407.6201

Email completed form to Lisa-Lerwick@nacdn.org or mail to:
Lisa Lerwick, NACD Awards
509 Capitol Ct., N.E.
Washington, DC 20002

Please tell us in 500 words or less how the person listed above is meeting the award criteria.

<http://www.nacdnet.org/outreach/awards/diversity.htm> OnLINE Form



Conservation Partnership Diversity Award Nomination Washington State Conservation Commission

Diversity of Commission

The Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) is directed by ten members diverse in structure and constituent representation including; two members appointed by the Governor; three members elected by region conservation district supervisors. Five members are appointed as ex-officio members representing the state natural resource agencies.

Two members have Ph.D. degrees, a state environmental organizations leader, a member of a Native American tribe, farmers, and graduates of Stanford and Harvard. We have a rich, diverse governing board with distinguished alumni including leaders such as Jackie Reid, Vim Wright and Linda Arcuri that have served with distinction in state and national activities.

Service to Constituent Groups

Many constituent groups flooded the state legislature with letters in support of the WSCC when there was a threat not to fund the Commission for the FY 03-05 biennium. The legislature recognized the diversity of agriculture, environmental, conservation, fish & wildlife, and private organizations that wrote in support of funding the state commission and provided an increase in WSCC funding for the biennium.

In the past two years, seven statewide task forces and committees consisting of district supervisors and employees have developed draft decision packets, budget requests and draft policies for consideration by the WSCC, the Governor, and the Legislature. This comprehensive system of diverse constituent involvement rewarded WSCC with outstanding recommendations based on local conservation district needs.

Employee Diversity

The Commission consists of fifteen staff, including seven females. Six employees hold Bachelor Degrees ranging from Agriculture Engineering and Geology, to Business Administration. We have past Executive Directors of organizations and a United States Army retiree. The staff has diverse backgrounds and interests including five with agricultural backgrounds in nursery, dryland farming, forestry, poultry, dairy, livestock, and tree fruit. We have three graduates of the Ag Forestry Leadership Program.

Diversity of Programs

From coastal conservation programs to programs in urban conservation, forestry, rangeland, irrigated agriculture, dryland agriculture, land use planning, salmonid limited factors analysis – Washington State presents one of the most diverse set of conservation programs in the USA. A newly developed planning and reporting system is providing WSCC with information regarding the diversity of programs implemented by our 47 conservation districts.

In the past three years, WSCC staff has assisted our conservation districts with organizing and chairing the local work groups to provide USDA with local, diverse input into programs including EQIP, WHIP, and CSP. Services included methods of stakeholder input, session designs, and facilitation assistance. Over 20 national and state organizations have members from WSCC or their staff.

Efforts to Improve or Continue Efforts to Carry Out Conservation

A newly developed Strategic Plan includes goals, objectives, strategies and performance measures. Under development are nomination and review procedures for WSCC appointed members to conservation district boards. WSCC will be developing new training and assistance for recruiting and nominating conservation district supervisors to the open election process, providing new training opportunities for CRM and stakeholder involvement processes, and facilitation assistance for the development of new 5-year strategic plans in each district.



DEC 27

National Association of Conservation Districts

December 22, 2005

Mark Clark, Executive Director
Washington State Conservation Commission
P.O. Box 47721
Olympia, WA 98504-7721

Dear Mr. Clark:

On behalf of the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), I am pleased to inform you that National Conservation Partnership has selected your state agency to be the recipient of the *2005 National Conservation Partnership State Conservation Agency Diversity Award*. I hope you will accept this special honor.

The *Partnership Diversity* award recognizes a state conservation agency that is addressing diversity needs to improve delivery of conservation programs. This award is kindly sponsored by NRCS.

The National Conservation Partnership Diversity Awards will be presented at the NACD Annual Meeting during the banquet dinner on Wednesday, February 1st, 2006. The meeting will be held at the Hilton-Americas in Houston, Texas. I hope that someone from your agency will be able to be there with us to accept the award in person.

As a diversity award winner your agency will receive one complimentary registration to the Annual Meeting and one complimentary ticket to the banquet dinner (package 1 on the registration form enclosed).

In order to help us with planning, please let Sarah Hickling know who will be able to accept the award at our meeting. Enclosed is a special registration form that we would ask you to fill out and return before January 13th to the NACD office:

NACD
Attention: Sarah Hickling
509 Capitol Court NE
Washington, DC 20002

Again, congratulations on your award. I hope you will be able to join us this January in Houston. If you have any questions, please call Sarah Hickling at 202-547-6223, ext. 228.

Sincerely,

Bill Wilson, President